

House Bill No.7127 - Governor's FY 2027, FY 2026 Revised and Capital Budgets -- Rhode Island Public Transit Authority

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island resident who cares about the well-being and independence of older adults in our state, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of fully funding RIPTA in the FY 2027 budget.

For many Rhode Islanders—especially older adults—public transportation is not simply a convenience, it is a lifeline. Reliable transit allows older adults to maintain independence even when driving becomes difficult or unsafe. It enables access to essential needs such as medical appointments, pharmacies, grocery stores, and community activities without relying entirely on family or caregivers.

Transportation is also critical for healthcare access. Missed medical appointments due to a lack of transportation can worsen health conditions and lead to more costly emergency care. Just as importantly, public transit helps reduce social isolation by allowing older adults to remain active in their communities.

Public transportation also supports aging in place, something most older adults strongly prefer. It provides an affordable transportation option for individuals living on fixed incomes while helping them stay connected to the services and people they rely on.

For these reasons, I am asking for your support for full funding of House Bill No. 7127 for RIPTA in the FY 2027 budget. It is an important investment in independence, health, and community connection for Rhode Islanders, especially our older adults. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Kelly

Johnston, RI